

CHRIS PAPPAS
FIRST DISTRICT, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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COMMITTEE ON
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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

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February 28, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

President Biden,

Russia's premeditated invasion of Ukraine has shocked the world. My thoughts are with the Ukrainian people needlessly put in harm's way by Vladimir Putin's violation of international law and determination to dictate a sovereign nation's future by force. While we must use every tool to punish Russia, your Administration must also use every tool to shield the American people and our economy from being adversely impacted as a result of Russia's actions in Ukraine.

Although the United States imports relatively little oil from Russia, the impact of Putin's invasion has sent global oil prices to a seven-year high and will likely increase costs for Americans at the gas pump. In November, I called for your Administration to lower energy costs by releasing inventory from our Heating Oil and Petroleum Reserves. As conditions worsen in Ukraine, this step must be taken immediately to provide financial relief to Americans and bring down costs.

The price of wheat has reached a nine-year high following Russia's invasion, and experts suggest rising food prices are likely. The last thing Americans need now is even higher prices at the grocery store. I urge your Administration to use every resource available to mitigate rising domestic food prices. In January, you announced \$1 billion from the *American Rescue Plan* to help lower meat prices, and I urge you to release those and other funds at once.

Russian cyber threats remain a significant risk to American small businesses. New Hampshire businesses, local governments, schools, and even individuals cannot afford to be crippled by Russian attacks on our networks, electric grid, or other infrastructure. The bipartisan *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*, includes cyber security funding which I urge you to release as soon as possible and take additional actions to secure Americans from cyber threats.

I have heard from local manufacturers about the importance of raw materials and minerals to their businesses - much of which can be sourced from Russia. Metals including nickel have a wide variety of uses in high tech products and components. In order to combat negative impacts to our manufacturing economy and supply chains, it is vital your Administration and Congressional leadership take steps to shore up supply chains by working to pass and implement

safeguards, including those included in the *America COMPETES Act*, which the House passed earlier this month.

As we continue to recover from the pandemic while confronting the threat posed by Russia's aggression abroad and the subsequent inflationary and supply chain challenges, I urge your Administration to do all it can to mitigate the economic consequences of this geopolitical upheaval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Pappas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chris Pappas
Member of Congress